

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Ray Anderson 590 Lower Landing Road, Apt 69E Blackwood, NJ 08012 (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff <u>Camden</u> <i>(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)</i> (c) Attorneys <i>(Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)</i> Graham F. Baird, Law Office of Eric A. Shore 2 Penn Center, 1500 JFK Blvd, Suite 1240, Philadelphia PA 19102 Tel: 267-546-0131	DEFENDANTS Lowe's Home Centers, LLC 1500 N. 50th Street Philadelphia, PA 19131 County of Residence of First Listed Defendant <u>Philadelphia</u> <i>(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)</i> NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED. Attorneys <i>(If Known)</i>
---	--

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION <i>(Place an "X" in One Box Only)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 Federal Question <i>(U.S. Government Not a Party)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> 2 U.S. Government Defendant <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Diversity <i>(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)</i>	III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES <i>(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)</i> <table style="width:100%;"> <tr> <th></th> <th>PTF</th> <th>DEF</th> <th></th> <th>PTF</th> <th>DEF</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Citizen of This State</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 1</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 1</td> <td>Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 4</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Citizen of Another State</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 2</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 2</td> <td>Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 5</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 3</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 3</td> <td>Foreign Nation</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 6</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 6</td> </tr> </table>		PTF	DEF		PTF	DEF	Citizen of This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Citizen of Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
	PTF	DEF		PTF	DEF																				
Citizen of This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4																				
Citizen of Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5																				
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6																				

IV. NATURE OF SUIT <i>(Place an "X" in One Box Only)</i>			Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.	
CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <input type="checkbox"/> 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit (15 USC 1681 or 1692) <input type="checkbox"/> 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIONS		
<input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty Other: <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement		

V. ORIGIN <i>(Place an "X" in One Box Only)</i>							
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Original Proceeding	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Removed from State Court	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Remanded from Appellate Court	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Reinstated or Reopened	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Transferred from Another District <i>(specify)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File	

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing <i>(Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):</i> <u>42 U.S.C.A. § 2000e-2(a)</u> Brief description of cause: <u>Employment Discrimination</u>
----------------------------	---

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.	DEMAND \$ <u>150,000</u>	CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
-------------------------------------	---	------------------------------------	---

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY	<i>(See instructions):</i> JUDGE _____ DOCKET NUMBER _____		
-------------------------------------	--	--	--

DATE <u>5/19/2021</u>	SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD 	
--------------------------	---	--

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	RECEIPT # _____	AMOUNT _____	APPLYING IFP _____	JUDGE _____	MAG. JUDGE _____
---------------------	-----------------	--------------	--------------------	-------------	------------------

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

Ray Anderson	:	CIVIL ACTION
v.	:	
Lowe's Home Centers, LLC	:	
	:	NO.

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:

- (a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255. ()
- (b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits. ()
- (c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. ()
- (d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos. ()
- (e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.) ()
- (f) Standard Management – Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks. (X)

5/19/2021	Graham F. Baird	Ray Anderson
Date	Attorney-at-law	Attorney for
267-546-0131	215-944-6124	GrahamB@ericshore.com
Telephone	FAX Number	E-Mail Address

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Plaintiff: 590 Lower Landing Road, Apt 69E, Blackwood, NJ 08012

Address of Defendant: 1500 N. 50th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19131

Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 1500 N. 50th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19131

RELATED CASE, IF ANY:


Case Number: _____ Judge: _____ Date Terminated: _____

Civil cases are deemed related when *Yes* is answered to any of the following questions:

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case ☐ is / ☒ is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

DATE: 5/19/2021


Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff

92692

Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)

CIVIL: (Place a ✓ in one category only)

A. Federal Question Cases:

- ☐ 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts
- ☐ 2. FELA
- ☐ 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury
- ☐ 4. Antitrust
- ☐ 5. Patent
- ☐ 6. Labor-Management Relations
- ☒ 7. Civil Rights
- ☐ 8. Habeas Corpus
- ☐ 9. Securities Act(s) Cases
- ☐ 10. Social Security Review Cases
- ☐ 11. All other Federal Question Cases

(Please specify): _____

B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:

- ☐ 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
- ☐ 2. Airplane Personal Injury
- ☐ 3. Assault, Defamation
- ☐ 4. Marine Personal Injury
- ☐ 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
- ☐ 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): _____
- ☐ 7. Products Liability
- ☐ 8. Products Liability – Asbestos
- ☐ 9. All other Diversity Cases

(Please specify): _____

ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION


(The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.)

I, Graham F. Baird, counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify:

☒ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:

☐ Relief other than monetary damages is sought.

DATE: 5/19/2021


Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff

92692

Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)

NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

RAY ANDERSON
590 Lower Landing Road
Apartment 69E
Blackwood, NJ 08012

Plaintiff,

v.

LOWE’S HOME CENTERS, LLC
1500 N. 50th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19131

And

LOWE’S HOME CENTERS, LLC
1000 Lowe’s Boulevard
Mooresville, NC 28117

Defendants.

JURY DEMANDED

No.

CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT

I. Parties and Reasons for Jurisdiction.

1. Plaintiff, RAY ANDERSON (hereinafter “Plaintiff”) is an adult individual residing at the above address.

2. Defendant, LOWE’S HOME CENTERS, LLC (hereinafter “LHC”) is a business corporation organized by and operating under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and having a headquarters at the above captioned address.

3. Defendant, LOWE’S HOME CENTERS, LLC (hereinafter “LHC”) is a business corporation organized by and operating under the laws of the State of North Carolina and having a corporate headquarters at the above captioned address. Both Defendants are hereinafter collectively referred to as “Defendants.”

4. At all times material hereto, Defendant qualified as Plaintiff's employer pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act and as defined under Pennsylvania law.

5. This action is instituted pursuant to the United States Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act.

6. Jurisdiction is conferred by 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343.

7. Supplemental jurisdiction over the Plaintiff's state law claim is conferred pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

8. Plaintiff has exhausted his administrative remedies pursuant to the Equal Employment Opportunity Act and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. (See Exhibit A, a true and correct copy of a "right-to-sue" letter issued by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.)

9. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) and (b)(2), venue is properly laid in this district because Defendant conducts business in this district, and because a substantial part of the acts and/or omissions giving rise to the claims set forth herein occurred in this judicial district. Plaintiff was working in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania at the time of the illegal actions by Defendant as set forth herein.

II. Operative Facts.

10. In or around 2006, Plaintiff was hired by Defendants as an Assistant Store Manager working primarily at the store located at 1500 North 50th Street, Philadelphia, PA.

11. Plaintiff is an African-American man.

12. On or about May 30, 2019, Plaintiff requested and was approved for an FMLA leave due to anxiety and stress, conditions which were exacerbated by working in Defendant's West Philadelphia store location.

13. On or about July 29, 2019, Plaintiff returned to work and put in a request with Defendant's store manager, Janeen De Villava, to be transferred to another location as he had attributed the worsening of his disability symptoms to working at that specific location.

14. On or about August 12, 2019, Plaintiff was informed by Ms. De Villava and Defendant's human resources business partner, Brandon Gurk, that due to "performance issues" from approximately 2018, prior to Plaintiff taking his FMLA leave, he was ineligible for a transfer.

15. On August 19, 2019, Plaintiff was placed on a ninety (90) day Performance Improvement Plan ("PIP") stemming from these purported pre-FMLA leave performance issues.

16. Plaintiff was subjected to heightened scrutiny following being placed on this PIP, and was written up for issues that previously would not have resulted in written discipline, for example, a subordinate leaving a cash-bag behind a never-used and non-working register.

17. On or about November 12, 2019, Plaintiff's PIP was extended due to "not performing" in the areas of the original PIP.

18. Plaintiff submitted a complaint to Defendant stating he believed this PIP and the denial of his request for transfer were due to his race and in retaliation for a previous complaint he had filed prior to his FMLA leave.

19. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff's transfer request was denied while transfer requests were expedited for other white co-workers, including one with unsatisfactory performance.

20. Defendant denied Plaintiff's request for a transfer as a reasonable accommodation for his diagnosed disability which was being exacerbated by the store location he was working in.

21. Defendant refused to engage in a meaningful back and forth discussion toward the development of an accommodation for Plaintiff's disability.

22. Defendant denied Plaintiff's transfer request while expedite white co-worker's requests for transfer.

23. At all times material hereto, Defendant was hostile to Plaintiff's race, disability and need for FMLA to manage the symptoms, and retaliated against him as a result of that animus.

24. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct toward Plaintiff, he sustained great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost opportunity, loss of future wages, as well emotional distress, pain and suffering and other damages as set forth below.

III. Causes of Action.

COUNT I – EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION (42 U.S.C.A. § 2000e-2(a))

25. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1-24 as if fully set forth at length herein.

26. Defendant took adverse action against Plaintiff by refusing his request for transfer and placing him on a PIP.

27. Plaintiff's status as an African-American man places him in a protected class.

28. Plaintiff's membership in a protected class was a motivating factor in Defendants' decision to refuse his request for transfer and place him on a PIP.

29. Plaintiff suffered disparate treatment by Defendant, as set forth above.

39. As such, Defendant's conduct toward Plaintiff is an unlawful employment practice, under 42. U.S.C. § 2000e-2(a).

40. As a proximate result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff sustained significant damages, including but not limited to: great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost opportunity, loss of future wages, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, as well as emotional distress, pain and suffering, consequential damages and Plaintiff has also sustained work loss, loss of opportunity, and a permanent diminution of earning power and capacity and a claim is made therefore.

41. As a result of the conduct of Defendant's owners/management, Plaintiff hereby demands punitive damages.

42. Pursuant to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000e-2(a), et seq Plaintiff demands attorneys fees and court costs.

COUNT II– AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
(42 U.S.C.A. § 12101 et seq)
(Plaintiff v. Defendants)

43. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1-42 as if fully set forth at length herein.

44. At all times material hereto, and pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §12101, et seq., an employer may not discriminate against an employee based on a disability.

45. Plaintiff is a qualified employee and person within the definition of Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §12101, et seq.

46. Defendant is an "employer" and thereby subject to the strictures of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §12101, et seq.

47. At all times material hereto, Plaintiff had a qualified disability, as described above.

48. As set forth above, Plaintiff was subjected to a hostile work environment due to her aforementioned disability.

49. Defendant failed to accommodate or otherwise engage in a meaningful back and forth towards the development of a reasonable accommodation.

50. Defendant's conduct in refusing Plaintiff's request for transfer as a reasonable accommodation is an adverse action, was taken as a result of his disability and constitutes a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §12101, et seq.,

51. As a proximate result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff sustained significant damages, including but not limited to: great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost opportunity, loss of future wages, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, as well as emotional distress, pain and suffering, consequential damages and Plaintiff has also sustained work loss, loss of opportunity, and a permanent diminution of earning power and capacity and a claim is made therefore.

52. As a result of the conduct of Defendant's owners/management, Plaintiff hereby demands punitive damages.

53. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §12101, et seq Plaintiff demands attorneys fees and court costs.

COUNT III – VIOLATION OF FMLA—RETALIATION
(29 U.S.C. §2601 et seq.)

54. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1-53 as if fully set forth at length herein.

55. As set forth above, Plaintiff was entitled to medical leave pursuant to the FMLA, 29 U.S.C. §2601, et seq.

56. As described above, Defendant refused a request for transfer and placed Plaintiff on a PIP, an adverse action, in retaliation for him exercising his rights to take FMLA leave.

57. Defendant's conduct toward Plaintiff was based, in part, upon his application and utilization of FMLA leave.

58. As a proximate result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff sustained significant damages, including but not limited to: great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost opportunity, loss of future wages, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, as well as emotional distress, pain and suffering, consequential damages and Plaintiff has also sustained work loss, loss of opportunity, and a permanent diminution of earning power and capacity and a claim is made therefore.

59. As a result of the conduct of Defendant's owners/management, Plaintiff hereby demands punitive and/or liquidated damages.

60. Pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, 29 U.S.C. §2601, et seq Plaintiff demands attorneys fees and court costs.

COUNT IV - PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS ACT
43 Pa.C.S.A. §951, et seq.

61. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1-60 as if fully set forth at length herein.

62. As set forth above, Plaintiff is disabled and a member of a protected class.

63. Defendants refused Plaintiff's request for transfer and placed him on a PIP.

64. Plaintiff's disability and membership in a protected class was a motivating factor in Defendants' decision to refuse his request for transfer and to place him on a PIP.

65. Plaintiff suffered disparate treatment by Defendant, as set forth above.

66. As such, Defendant violated the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, 43 Pa.C.S.A. §951, et seq.

67. As a proximate result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff sustained significant damages, including but not limited to: great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost opportunity, loss of future wages, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, as well as emotional distress, pain and suffering, consequential damages and Plaintiff has also sustained work loss, loss of opportunity, and a permanent diminution of earning power and capacity and a claim is made therefore.

68. Plaintiff demands attorneys' fees and court costs.

IV. Relief Requested.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, RAY ANDERSON demands judgment in his favor and against Defendants, LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC, in an amount in excess of \$150,000.00 together with:

- A. Compensatory damages, including but not limited to: back pay, front pay, past lost wages, future lost wages. Lost pay increases, lost pay incentives, lost opportunity, lost benefits, lost future earning capacity, injury to reputation, mental and emotional distress, pain and suffering
- B. Punitive damages;
- C. Attorneys fees and costs of suit;
- D. Interest, delay damages; and,
- E. Any other further relief this Court deems just proper and equitable.

LAW OFFICES OF ERIC A. SHORE, P.C.

BY: 

GRAHAM F. BAIRD, ESQUIRE

Attorney for Plaintiff, Ray Anderson

Date: 5/19/2021

EXH. A

U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

DISMISSAL AND NOTICE OF RIGHTS

To: **Ray Anderson**
590 Lower Landing Road
Apt. 69E
Blackwood, NJ 08012

From: **Philadelphia District Office**
801 Market Street
Suite 1000
Philadelphia, PA 19107

☐

On behalf of person(s) aggrieved whose identity is
 CONFIDENTIAL (29 CFR §1601.7(a))

EEOC Charge No.

EEOC Representative

Telephone No.

530-2020-00945

Legal Unit,
Legal Technician

(267) 589-9707

THE EEOC IS CLOSING ITS FILE ON THIS CHARGE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

☐

The facts alleged in the charge fail to state a claim under any of the statutes enforced by the EEOC.

☐

Your allegations did not involve a disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act.

☐

The Respondent employs less than the required number of employees or is not otherwise covered by the statutes.

☐

Your charge was not timely filed with EEOC; in other words, you waited too long after the date(s) of the alleged discrimination to file your charge

☒

The EEOC issues the following determination: The EEOC will not proceed further with its investigation, and makes no determination about whether further investigation would establish violations of the statute. This does not mean the claims have no merit. This determination does not certify that the respondent is in compliance with the statutes. The EEOC makes no finding as to the merits of any other issues that might be construed as having been raised by this charge.

☐

The EEOC has adopted the findings of the state or local fair employment practices agency that investigated this charge.

☐

Other (briefly state)

- NOTICE OF SUIT RIGHTS -

(See the additional information attached to this form.)

Title VII, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act: This will be the only notice of dismissal and of your right to sue that we will send you. You may file a lawsuit against the respondent(s) under federal law based on this charge in federal or state court. Your lawsuit **must be filed WITHIN 90 DAYS of your receipt of this notice**; or your right to sue based on this charge will be lost. (The time limit for filing suit based on a claim under state law may be different.)

Equal Pay Act (EPA): EPA suits must be filed in federal or state court within 2 years (3 years for willful violations) of the alleged EPA underpayment. This means that **backpay due for any violations that occurred more than 2 years (3 years) before you file suit may not be collectible.**

On behalf of the Commission



Jamie R. Williamson,
District Director

March 1, 2021

(Date Issued)

Enclosures(s)

cc:

Charlene A. Gedeus, Esq.
BUCHANON INGERSOLL & ROONEY, PC
Two Liberty Place
50 S. 16th Street, Suite 3200
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Graham F. Baird, Esq.
LAW OFFICES OF ERIC SHORE
Penn Center, Suite 1240
1500 JFK Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19102

INFORMATION RELATED TO FILING SUIT UNDER THE LAWS ENFORCED BY THE EEOC

*(This information relates to filing suit in Federal or State court under Federal law.
If you also plan to sue claiming violations of State law, please be aware that time limits and other
provisions of State law may be shorter or more limited than those described below.)*

PRIVATE SUIT RIGHTS -- Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA):

In order to pursue this matter further, you must file a lawsuit against the respondent(s) named in the charge **within 90 days of the date you receive this Notice**. Therefore, you should **keep a record of this date**. Once this 90-day period is over, your right to sue based on the charge referred to in this Notice will be lost. If you intend to consult an attorney, you should do so promptly. Give your attorney a copy of this Notice, and its envelope or record of receipt, and tell him or her the date you received it. Furthermore, in order to avoid any question that you did not act in a timely manner, it is prudent that your suit be filed **within 90 days of the date this Notice was issued to you** (as indicated where the Notice is signed) or the date of the postmark or record of receipt, if later.

Your lawsuit may be filed in U.S. District Court or a State court of competent jurisdiction. (Usually, the appropriate State court is the general civil trial court.) Whether you file in Federal or State court is a matter for you to decide after talking to your attorney. Filing this Notice is not enough. You must file a "complaint" that contains a short statement of the facts of your case which shows that you are entitled to relief. Your suit may include any matter alleged in the charge or, to the extent permitted by court decisions, matters like or related to the matters alleged in the charge. Generally, suits are brought in the State where the alleged unlawful practice occurred, but in some cases can be brought where relevant employment records are kept, where the employment would have been, or where the respondent has its main office. If you have simple questions, you usually can get answers from the office of the clerk of the court where you are bringing suit, but do not expect that office to write your complaint or make legal strategy decisions for you.

PRIVATE SUIT RIGHTS -- Equal Pay Act (EPA):

EPA suits must be filed in court within 2 years (3 years for willful violations) of the alleged EPA underpayment: back pay due for violations that occurred **more than 2 years (3 years) before you file suit** may not be collectible. For example, if you were underpaid under the EPA for work performed from 7/1/08 to 12/1/08, you should file suit **before 7/1/10** -- not 12/1/10 -- in order to recover unpaid wages due for July 2008. This time limit for filing an EPA suit is separate from the 90-day filing period under Title VII, the ADA, GINA or the ADEA referred to above. Therefore, if you also plan to sue under Title VII, the ADA, GINA or the ADEA, in addition to suing on the EPA claim, suit must be filed within 90 days of this Notice and within the 2- or 3-year EPA back pay recovery period.

ATTORNEY REPRESENTATION -- Title VII, the ADA or GINA:

If you cannot afford or have been unable to obtain a lawyer to represent you, the U.S. District Court having jurisdiction in your case may, in limited circumstances, assist you in obtaining a lawyer. Requests for such assistance must be made to the U.S. District Court in the form and manner it requires (you should be prepared to explain in detail your efforts to retain an attorney). Requests should be made well before the end of the 90-day period mentioned above, because such requests do not relieve you of the requirement to bring suit within 90 days.

ATTORNEY REFERRAL AND EEOC ASSISTANCE -- All Statutes:

You may contact the EEOC representative shown on your Notice if you need help in finding a lawyer or if you have any questions about your legal rights, including advice on which U.S. District Court can hear your case. If you need to inspect or obtain a copy of information in EEOC's file on the charge, please request it promptly in writing and provide your charge number (as shown on your Notice). While EEOC destroys charge files after a certain time, all charge files are kept for at least 6 months after our last action on the case. Therefore, if you file suit and want to review the charge file, **please make your review request within 6 months of this Notice**. (Before filing suit, any request should be made within the next 90 days.)

IF YOU FILE SUIT, PLEASE SEND A COPY OF YOUR COURT COMPLAINT TO THIS OFFICE.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS UNDER THE ADA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008 (ADAAA): The ADA was amended, effective January 1, 2009, to broaden the definitions of disability to make it easier for individuals to be covered under the ADA/ADAAA. A disability is still defined as (1) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities (actual disability); (2) a record of a substantially limiting impairment; or (3) being regarded as having a disability. *However, these terms are redefined, and it is easier to be covered under the new law.*

If you plan to retain an attorney to assist you with your ADA claim, we recommend that you share this information with your attorney and suggest that he or she consult the amended regulations and appendix, and other ADA related publications, available at http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/types/disability_regulations.cfm.

“Actual” disability or a “record of” a disability (note: if you are pursuing a failure to accommodate claim you must meet the standards for either “actual” or “record of” a disability):

- **The limitations from the impairment no longer have to be severe or significant** for the impairment to be considered substantially limiting.
- In addition to activities such as performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, thinking, concentrating, reading, bending, and communicating (more examples at 29 C.F.R. § 1630.2(i)), **“major life activities” now include the operation of major bodily functions**, such as: functions of the immune system, special sense organs and skin; normal cell growth; and digestive, genitourinary, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, cardiovascular, endocrine, hemic, lymphatic, musculoskeletal, and reproductive functions; or the operation of an individual organ within a body system.
- **Only one** major life activity need be substantially limited.
- With the exception of ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses, **the beneficial effects of “mitigating measures”** (e.g., hearing aid, prosthesis, medication, therapy, behavioral modifications) **are not considered** in determining if the impairment substantially limits a major life activity.
- An impairment that is **“episodic”** (e.g., epilepsy, depression, multiple sclerosis) or **“in remission”** (e.g., cancer) is a disability if it **would be substantially limiting when active**.
- An impairment **may be substantially limiting even though** it lasts or is expected to last **fewer than six months**.

“Regarded as” coverage:

- An individual can meet the definition of disability if an **employment action was taken because of an actual or perceived impairment** (e.g., refusal to hire, demotion, placement on involuntary leave, termination, exclusion for failure to meet a qualification standard, harassment, or denial of any other term, condition, or privilege of employment).
- “Regarded as” coverage under the ADAAA no longer requires that an impairment be substantially limiting, or that the employer perceives the impairment to be substantially limiting.
- The employer has a defense against a “regarded as” claim only when the impairment at issue is objectively **BOTH** transitory (lasting or expected to last six months or less) **AND** minor.
- A person is not able to bring a failure to accommodate claim *if* the individual is covered only under the “regarded as” definition of “disability.”

Note: Although the amended ADA states that the definition of disability “shall be construed broadly” and “should not demand extensive analysis,” some courts require specificity in the complaint explaining how an impairment substantially limits a major life activity or what facts indicate the challenged employment action was because of the impairment. Beyond the initial pleading stage, some courts will require specific evidence to establish disability. For more information, consult the amended regulations and appendix, as well as explanatory publications, available at http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/types/disability_regulations.cfm.